

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 /022 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK/MW

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

NEA/RA:RWHOBBS

PM/ISO:JSCOTT (SUBSTANCE)

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

NEA/ARP:RAHERNE

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R 230406Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017275

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (JONES, GENERAL DAVID C.), PK, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED USAF CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DUBS

1. GENERAL JONES IS PLANNING A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AROUND THE FIRST OF MARCH. HE PLANS TO VISIT ITALY AND SAUDI ARABIA AND HAS ASKED US WHETHER WE WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO HIS INCLUDING PAKISTAN ON HIS ITINERARY. APPARENTLY HE HAS IN MIND TAKING UP AIR CHIEF MARSHAL ZULFIKAR'S INVITATION FOR A RETURN VISIT. I UNDERSTAND, BUT AM NOT POSITIVE, THAT THIS PROPOSED VISIT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ANY PAKISTANIS.

2. WE TOLD DOD THAT IN PRINCIPLE WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO GENERAL JONES VISITING PAKISTAN, BUT THAT THE TIMING SEEMED A LITTLE CLOSE TO ZULFIKAR'S VISIT HERE. WE EXPRESSED CON-
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CERN THAT IT MIGHT CREATE AN IMPRESSION OF MORE ACTIVITY

IN THE AREA OF BILATERAL COOPERATION THAN IS IN FACT THE CASE. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT GENERAL JONES MIGHT BE PLACING HIMSELF IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION BY VISITING BOTH PAKISTAN AND SAUDI ARABIA ON THE SAME TRIP, AS BOTH COUNTRIES MIGHT PRESS HIM TO TAKE A MORE FORTHCOMING POSTURE ON A-7 SALES TO PAKISTAN THAN OUR PRESENT POLICY PERMITS. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE INFORMALLY ASKED DOD TO PUT THE VISIT OFF A WHILE, PERHAPS AIMING FOR SOMETIME THIS FALL IF THAT WOULD BE CONVENIENT.

3. I SUSPECT THAT DOD WILL TAKE OUR ADVICE, BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY CONTRARY THOUGHTS PLEASE LET ME KNOW. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, AIR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE017275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAPECK/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760026-0604
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760126/aaaaaxaa.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED USAF CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DUBS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PK, US, (JONES, DAVID C)
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006